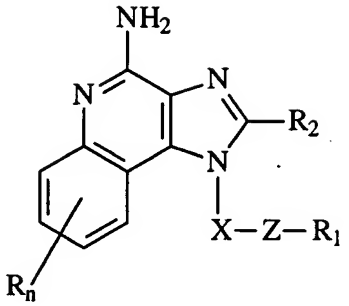
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein: **X** is $-CHR_3-$, $-CHR_3$-alkyl-, or $-CHR_3$-alkenyl-;

Z is –S-, -SO-, or-SO_2-;

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-alkyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkenyl;

-R_4–aryl;

-R_4– heteroaryl;

-R_4–heterocyclyl;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkyl-Y-alkyl;

- alkyl-Y- alkenyl;

-alkyl-Y-aryl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

-$N(R_3)_2$;

-CO-$N(R_3)_2$;

-CO-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-CO-O-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl; and

-CO-heteroaryl;

each $\mathbf{R_3}$ is independently H or C_{1-10} alkyl;

$\mathbf{R_4}$ is alkylene or alkenylene;

Y is –O– or –$S(O)_{0-2}$-;

n is 0 to 4; and

each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is –S–.

3. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is –SO_2–.

4. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is –alkyl.

5. A compound of claim 4 wherein R_1 is –methyl.

6. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is aryl.

7. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is heteroaryl.

8. A compound of claim 1 wherein X is $-(CH_2)_{2-6}-$.

9. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is H.

10. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is –alkyl–O–alkyl.

11. A compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is –alkyl.

12. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-butyl-1-[4-(phenylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[2-(phenylthio)ethyl]-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[4-(phenylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[4-(methylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[2-(phenylthio)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(phenylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(phenylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(methylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-hexyl-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

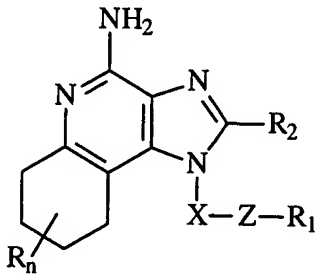
2-butyl-1-[5-(methylthio)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[5-(methylsulfinyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[3-(methylsulfonyl)propyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine; and

2-butyl-1-[3-(phenylsulfonyl)propyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. A compound of the formula (II)



(II)

wherein: **X** is $-CHR_3-$, $-CHR_3$-alkyl-, or $-CHR_3$-alkenyl-;

Z is –S-, -SO-, or $-SO_2-$;

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-alkyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkenyl;

$-R_4$–aryl;

$-R_4$– heteroaryl; and

$-R_4$–heterocyclyl;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkyl-Y-alkyl;

- alkyl-Y- alkenyl;

-alkyl-Y-aryl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

-$N(R_3)_2$;

-$CO\text{-}N(R_3)_2$;

-$CO\text{-}C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

-$CO\text{-}O\text{-}C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl; and

-CO-heteroaryl;

each $\mathbf{R_3}$ is independently H or $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

$\mathbf{R_4}$ is alkylene or alkenylene;

Y is –O– or $-S(O)_{0\text{-}2}$-;

n is 0 to 4; and

each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A compound of claim 13 wherein Z is –S–.

15. A compound of claim 13 wherein Z is $-SO_2-$.

16. A compound of claim 13 wherein R_1 is –alkyl.

17. A compound of claim 16 wherein R_1 is –methyl.

18. A compound of claim 13 wherein R_1 is aryl.

19. A compound of claim 13 wherein R_1 is heteroaryl.

20. A compound of claim 13 wherein X is $-(CH_2)_{2-6}-$.

21. A compound of claim 13 wherein R_2 is H.

22. A compound of claim 13 wherein R_2 is –alkyl–O–alkyl.

23. A compound of claim 13 wherein R_2 is –alkyl.

24. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-2-propyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[3-(methylthio)propyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[3-(methylsulfonyl)propyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[3-(methylthio)propyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[3-(methylsulfonyl)propyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[4-(methylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[4-(methylsulfinyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[4-(methylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl]-2-propyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[4-(methylsulfinyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[2-(methylthio)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl]-2-propyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{4-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)thio]butyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{4-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)sulfonyl]butyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[4-(ethylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{4-[(1,1-dimethylethyl)thio]butyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{4-[(4-fluorophenyl)thio]butyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{4-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]butyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-{4-[(1-methylethyl)thio]butyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

1-{4-[(3,5-dichlorophenyl)thio]butyl}-2-ethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(cyclopentylsulfonyl)butyl]-2-ethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

1-{4-[(3,5-dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl]butyl}-2-ethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(cyclohexylthio)butyl]-2-ethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

1-[4-(butylthio)butyl]-2-ethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

1-{4-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]butyl}-2-ethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[4-(butylsulfonyl)butyl]-2-ethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-{4-[(4-fluorophenyl)thio]butyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-{4-[(1-methylethyl)sulfonyl]butyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[4-(ethylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[4-(ethylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

1-[4-(cyclohexylsulfonyl)butyl]-2-ethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{2-[(1-methylethyl)sulfonyl]ethyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[2-(phenylsulfonyl)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{2-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]ethyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{2-[(1,1-dimethylethyl)sulfonyl]ethyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{2-[(1,1-dimethylethyl)thio]ethyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[2-(propylsulfonyl)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[2-(propylthio)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{2-[(2-methylpropyl)sulfonyl]ethyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-{2-[(2-methylpropyl)thio]ethyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[2-(ethylsulfonyl)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[2-(ethylthio)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinoline-4-amine;

2-butyl-1-[2-(methylsulfonyl)ethyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[6-(methylsulfonyl)hexyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[5-(phenylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-2-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1-[5-(phenylsulfonyl)pentyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[4-(pyrimidin-2-ylthio)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-ethyl-1-[4-(pyrimidin-2-ylsulfonyl)butyl]-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl]-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-[5-(methylsulfonyl)pentyl]-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-{4-[(1-methylethyl)sulfonyl]butyl}-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

2-methyl-1-{4-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]butyl}-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine; and

2-methyl-1-{4-[(1,1-dimethylethyl)sulfonyl]butyl}-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to the animal.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the cytokine is IFN-α.

29. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to the animal.

30. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to the animal.

31. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a theraputically effective amount of a compound of claim 12 to the animal.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the cytokine is IFN-α

33. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 12 to the animal.

34. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 12 to the animal.

35. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

36. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 13 to the animal.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the cytokine is IFN-α.

38. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 13 to the animal.

39. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 13 to the animal.

40. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

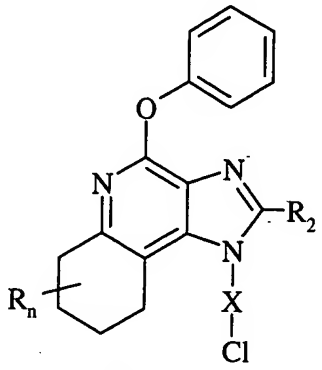
41. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 24 to the animal.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the cytokine is IFN-α.

43. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 24 to the animal.

44. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 24 to the animal.

45. A compound of the formula (III):



III

wherein: **X** is $-CHR_3-$, $-CHR_3$-alkyl-, or $-CHR_3$-alkenyl-;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkyl-Y-alkyl;

- alkyl-Y- alkenyl;

-alkyl-Y-aryl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

$-N(R_3)_2$;

$-CO-N(R_3)_2$;

$-CO-C_{1-10}$ alkyl;

-CO-O-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl; and

-CO-heteroaryl;

each $\mathbf{R_3}$ is independently H or C_{1-10} alkyl;

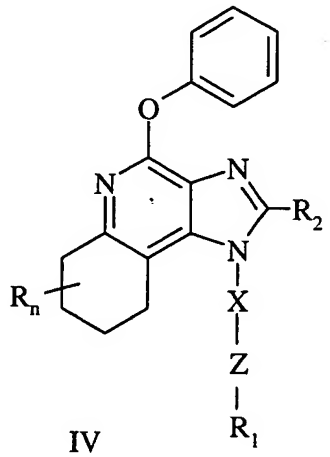
Y is –O– or –$S(O)_{0-2}$-;

n is 0 to 4; and

each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. A compound of the formula (IV):



IV

wherein: **X** is –CHR_3-, -CHR_3-alkyl-, or –CHR_3-alkenyl-;

Z is –S-, -SO-, or –SO_2-;

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-alkyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkenyl;

-R_4–aryl;

-R_4– heteroaryl; and

-R_4–heterocyclyl;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkyl-Y-alkyl;

- alkyl-Y- alkenyl;

-alkyl-Y-aryl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

-$N(R_3)_2$;

-CO-$N(R_3)_2$;

-CO-$C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

-CO-O-$C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl; and

-CO-heteroaryl;

each **R_3** is independently H or $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

R_4 is alkylene or alkenylene;

Y is –O– or –$S(O)_{0\text{-}2}$-;

n is 0 to 4; and

each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. A compound of claim 1 wherein Z is –SO-.

48. A compound of claim 13 wherein Z is –SO-.